



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

3 MARCH 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) El Centro – Federal Authorities Launch Human Smuggling Investigation after Deadly Vehicle Crash

(U) Federal authorities have launched a human smuggling investigation after yesterday's crash between a sport utility vehicle and gravel truck left 13 people dead and a dozen others injured just north of the California-Mexico border. A US Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesperson said that special agents from the Homeland Security Investigations unit in San Diego are looking to see if the deadly crash involved a human smuggling operation. Ten of the dead, including the SUV driver, were Mexican nationals, while the nationalities of the other three have not yet been determined, the Mexican Consulate said in a statement.

SOURCE: 3 March 2021, [NBC News](#)

(U) Sacramento – Homemade Firearm and Pipe Bomb Located at Sacramento Elementary School

(U) Sacramento County Sheriff deputies responded to call a of two suspicious packages at Ethel I. Baker Elementary School yesterday morning. Deputies said the homemade bomb and "zip" gun were active at the time of their arrival. Shortly after, they diffused the bomb and deactivated the gun before they were detonated. No children were present at the time of the incident and no one was injured.

SOURCE: 2 March 2021, [KSTE](#)

(U) Stockton – Two Men Plead Guilty Following Investigation of Explosion at Church

(U) James Towles, 51, and Russel Altheide, 65 entered guilty pleas Monday to felony charges following a bomb investigation that forced a Stockton neighborhood to evacuate in January. Towles is suspected of throwing a bomb at a church in January. He then led officers on a chase that ended with a crash. Investigators found a bomb inside his car that was rendered safe by the bomb squad. Altheide is accused of helping Towles make the explosives. He pled guilty to felony possession of ingredients to make a bomb and was sentenced to five months in jail and two years of probation.

SOURCE: 2 March 2021, [CBS](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Capitol Police to Increase Security Over QAnon Conspiracy Theory

(U) Washington – US Capitol Police said it has increased security on Capitol Hill this week due to "concerning information and intelligence" related to 4 March, the date that far-right conspiracy theorists believe former President Donald Trump will return to power. "The Department is aware of concerning information and intelligence pertaining to March 4th and continues to work with all of our law enforcement partners," the federal law enforcement agency said in a statement Tuesday night. "Based on the intelligence that we have, the Department has taken immediate steps to enhance our security posture and staffing for a number of days, to include March 4th. The Department has communicated our enhanced posture as well as the available intelligence for the entire workforce."

SOURCE: 3 March 2021, [ABC News](#)

(U) Iowa – Live Pipe Bomb Found at Iowa Polling Place

(U) Ankeny – Police confirmed yesterday that a suspicious device found outside a polling place for a special election the city was holding was a live pipe bomb. The device was rendered safe after being

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found by a community member. More than a dozen people had already cast ballots. The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is investigating.

SOURCE: 3 March 2021, [NBC News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan – ISIS Claims Responsibility for Killings of Three Media Members

(U) Kabul – ISIS has claimed responsibility for the killing of three women working for a local radio and TV station in eastern Afghanistan, the latest in a spike in targeted killings. The women were gunned down yesterday in separate attacks. Afghanistan is considered one of the most dangerous countries in the world for media workers. Yesterday's killings brought to 15 the number of media workers killed in Afghanistan in the last six months.

SOURCE: 3 March 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Iraq – US Base Attacked with Rockets

(U) Baghdad – At least 10 rockets targeted a military base in western Iraq that hosts about 2,000 US troops today, American and Iraqi military officials said. A US defense official said there were no reported casualties among US or coalition troops, but a civilian contractor died of a heart attack during the rocket strike. The rockets struck Ain al-Asad airbase in Anbar province at 7:20 a.m., according to Colonel Wayne Marotto, a spokesman for the US-led military coalition. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

SOURCE: 3 March 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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